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ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF COPPER EXPORTING COUNTRIES (CIPEC)

The Executive Director of the Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries (CIPEC) has written to the secretariat requesting the establishment of formal relations between the Commission and CIPEC, whose members are Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Peru and Zambia. The Agreement to establish CIPEC contains provisions authorizing the accession of other copper exporting countries to it.

As indicated in the Agreement establishing it, CIPEC is an inter-governmental consultative organization with the following objectives:

- (a) to co-ordinate measures designed to foster, through the expansion of the industry, dynamic and continuous growth of real earnings from copper exports, and to ensure a real forecast of such earnings;
- (b) to promote the harmonization of the decisions and policies of the member countries on problems relating to the production and marketing of copper;
- (c) to obtain better and more complete information and appropriate advice on the production and marketing of copper for member countries;
- (d) in general to increase resources for the economic and social development of producer countries bearing in mind the interest of consumers.

The only part of the Commission's terms of reference which covers ECLA's relations with inter-governmental organizations is the following:

- "7. (a) The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies to attend its meetings and to participate, without vote, in its deliberations with respect to items on its agenda relating to matters within the scope of their activities; and may invite observers from such other inter-governmental organizations as it may consider desirable in accordance with the practices of the Council."

This provision limits the participation of inter-governmental organizations to certain specified cases. The request from CIPEC concerns the establishment of formal relations, of a more permanent nature and, if granted, would enable it to attend, as an observer, all the meetings of the Commission on matters of concern to it.

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Should the Commission wish to accede to CIPEC's request, it could so under the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1267 B(XLIII), operative paragraph 3 of which invites the subsidiary bodies of the Council - including ECLA - to

"... make recommendations to it regarding the desirability of similar relationships between themselves and specific non-United Nations intergovernmental organizations active in fields of concern to them, on the basis of proposals by the Secretary-General;".

Operative paragraph 2 of the same resolution, if applied to the present case, would indicate that CIPEC may be invited to participate, without the right to vote, in ECLA's debates on questions of concern to it.

With respect to the procedure for establishing such relations, the Economic and Social Council resolution provides that the recommendation must be made to the Council on the basis of proposals by the Secretary-General, who will take into account the scope of such relations as may already have been established between CIPEC and United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and the regional economic commissions.

The Commission may express its decision on this point either in the form of a resolution, or in the form of a decision incorporated in the report on its fourteenth session with a reference calling the Council's attention to it.

It is not necessary for the Commission or the Economic and Social Council to come to any special decision regarding the establishment of contacts between ECLA and CIPEC at the secretariat level since the Council's resolution has invited the Secretary-General to strengthen such contacts: with inter-governmental organizations in the economic and social field outside the United Nations system.